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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated September 30, 2004.  
Claims 1-20 were examined.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 stands objected to because of an informality (i.e., a redundant phrase).  
Applicant has amended this claim as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 15, the Examiner has alleged that McDonald teaches all the limitations of the claims, including "identifying, among the plurality of cell names, cell names affiliated with the group" The examiner cites column 14, line 61 through column 15, line 10 for support of this position.

Applicant submits that McDonald nowhere discloses any such identifying step. Rather, McDonald's display (e.g., Fig. 17) shows *all* the components of an electrical design. (e.g., "A middle portion 1704 lists the various components necessary to create the buck topology switching regulator...". The "Analyze a Design" link 1804 (e.g., within the region identified by the Examiner) causes a schematic of the design to be displayed. (column 15, lines 21-23) Thereafter, the user may perform the various simulations and circuit analyses, such as those described with respect to Fig. 3A through Fig. 12. (column 15, lines 23-25) Such analyses include, for example, a Loop Gain Measurement, Efficiency, or Total Harmonic Distortion (column 11, lines 62-63), or Bode plot (column 12, line 6).

In any such case, the entire circuit is simulated or analyzed. No provision is made for identifying, among the plurality of cell names, cell names affiliated with the group for which testing may be commenced, as per claim 1. While various substitute components may be specified (e.g., "Users may select alternative parts by clicking a button 1708 associated with each component." (column 15, lines 10-11)), or different values for various components substituted

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(e.g., “the user may select values for components depicted in the schematic 2203 from various pull-down menus 2302 associated with each component.” (column 16, lines 28-31)), McDonald nonetheless discloses that *all* cells of the design are *always* selected for any analysis or simulation.

Such an enforced requirement that all such cells be simulated is inconsistent with the limitations of claim 1, including

displaying in a second of said plurality of regions, a plurality of virtual buttons, a subgroup of which operates to commence testing of parameters of a *set* of said plurality of electrical functions, with the electrical functions included in said set being associated with a *group* of said plurality of cell names; and *identifying*, among said plurality of cell names, cell names affiliated with said group.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn with respect to these claims.

Regarding independent claim 10, the Examiner has alleged that McDonald teaches all the limitations of the claims, including “... a subset of which [virtual buttons] operate to commence testing of parameters of a *set* of said plurality of electrical functions, the electrical functions included in said set being associated with a *group* of said plurality of cell names, said plurality of cell names affiliated with said group having a visually perceivable identifier associated therewith.”

While McDonald displays a list of components, each showing a visual outline of such components, these outlines do not represent whether the component is associated with the group of the plurality of cell names, because *all* such components are *always* selected for simulation, as described above, without any capability for the user to select which of such components are associated with the group. Such an outline of a component has nothing to do with its selection or lack thereof.

McDonald’s “Select Alternate Part” capability mentioned by the Examiner is used to select an alternate component for a given component in the netlist, but does not provide for choosing one component but not another component *within* a netlist for simulation.

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For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that McDonald does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 10. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065), as applied to claim 1 above, and Fan et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188902). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case for unpatentability has not been made out, as McDonald does not teach all the limitations which the Examiner alleges, as described above in regards to claims 1 and 15. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn. Claim 7 is also believed to be allowable at least for its dependence from allowable claim 1.

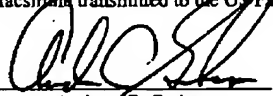
Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065), as applied to claim 10 above, and Kekic et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,664,978). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case for unpatentability has not been made out, as McDonald does not teach all the limitations which the Examiner alleges, as described above in regards to claims 10. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn. Claims 11 and 12 are also believed to be allowable at least for their dependence from allowable claim 10.

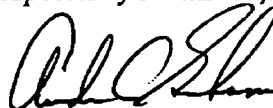
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Summary

In summary, claims 1-20 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. However, if the next contemplated Office action is other than a Notice of Allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests a telephone Examiner Interview to discuss any remaining concerns.

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 Andrew C. Graham	<u>1-31-05</u> Date

Respectfully submitted,



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